

**FROM CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK TO TESTING PRACTICES :  
A CRITICAL EVALUATION OF FOUNDATION COURSES IN ENGLISH  
AT UG LEVEL UNDER UGC'S CHOICE BASED CREDIT SYSTEM**

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**Abstract**

*“The English language has been an elevating influence in our lives,  
Raising our standards and broadening our outlook.”*

-The Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad III

It would not be an exaggeration to state that communication across borders without the English language would not be feasible. As English as a ‘living language’, it continues to spread its roots globally, in different varieties and through different dialects. English, as a language, continues to develop its form and structure. Thus, the language incorporated itself as the *Lingua Franca* with around four-hundred native speakers of English, and an estimated two billion people who speak or understand English as a second or foreign language (non-native speakers). It is the official language of more than fifty-three countries now. Currently, the use of English in information technology for communication makes English as

the language of the Internet. It is one of the six official languages of the United Nations Organization (UNO).

English has played a vital role in the lives of Indians during the British rule and continues to expand its roots not only in India but all over the world as the *Lingua Franca*. Not only in Gujarat but also in many states of India the undergraduate students of various faculties are not able to communicate in English very effectively. The curriculum used at the Undergraduate Level in Foundation Courses in English in the universities of Gujarat as well as the low performance of the students in Foundation Courses in English has been a major subject of concern. Since the implementation of Choice Based Credit System, which ultimately marked as the major change, initiated by the University Grants Commission (UGC) in the whole history of Higher Education in India, there is a need of a rock-hard research in this area.

It is needless to say that accurate developed communication skills are requisite for the job market today. With the spread of globalization and constant enhancement of international contacts in various fields such as commerce, education, science, etc. in India, a great deal of attention is being paid to redesign and restructure the curriculum framework that can prepare the learners for “accurate developed communication skills” (LOCF, 2018).

Although, it is felt that the Foundation or the Compulsory Courses in English for students at the undergraduate levels (B.A., B.Com. and B.Sc.) do not bring the required proficiency and competency in the

students, in all areas of the language at the end of their graduation. It is observed that though students have the knowledge of their specialized fields at the completion of their graduation, they lack to perform well as they are not proficient enough in communication skills in English. Thus, the research analyses teachers' perceptions of curriculum framework in Foundation Courses English at the undergraduate level in the universities of Gujarat and how the curriculum is implemented in classroom.

Following is the list of the selected state universities in Gujarat\* which provide undergraduate courses in Arts, Commerce and Science:

01. Bhakta Kavi Narsinh Mehta University, Junagadh.
02. Gujarat University, Ahmedabad.
03. Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University, Patan.
04. Krantiguru Shyamji Krishna Verma Kachchh University, Kachchh-Bhuj.
05. Krishnakumarsinhji Bhavnagar University, Bhavnagar.
06. Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidyanagar, Anand.
07. Saurashtra University, Rajkot.
08. Shree Govind Guru University, Godhra.
09. The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara.
10. Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, Surat.

\* *List of the selected state universities of Gujarat are arranged alphabetically.*